

## ABSTRACT

A method to reduce effluence during or immediately after imaging of a printing plate is described. In one embodiment of the invention, the method comprises: (a) applying to a substrate a coating composition comprising a photothermal converter and at least one polymer comprising thiosulfate groups to obtain a coating; and (b) applying a water soluble topcoat to the coating. Preferably, the water soluble topcoat does not comprise a photothermal converter. In another embodiment of the invention, the method comprises applying to a substrate a composition comprising: (a) a photothermal converter; (b) at least one polymer comprising thiosulfate groups; and (c) an additive selected from the group consisting of diazonium, iodonium, copper(I), alkoxypyridinium or maleimide additives.